

USACHPPM

HEALTH INFORMATION OPERATIONS (HIO) UPDATE

05 June 2003

The HIO Update provides information regarding global medical and veterinary issues of interest to the United States (US) Army. The update does not attempt to analyze the information regarding potential strategic or tactical impact to the US Army and as such, should not be regarded as a medical intelligence product. Medical intelligence products are available at <http://mic.afmic.detrick.army.mil/>. The information in the HIO Update should provide an increased awareness of current and emerging health-related issues.

| | |
|--|----------|
| HOT TOPICS | 2 |
| Antiviral Gloves Instantly Clean Wounds | 2 |
| Cumulative Number of Reported Probable Cases Of SARS From: 1 Nov 2002 ¹ To: 4 June 2003 | 2 |
| Discovery that Deadly Listeriosis Often Occurs in Clusters Can Help Find Sources and Save Lives | 3 |
| Eat Your Whey: It May Protect Against Prostate Cancer | 3 |
| Experts Disagree on Ideal Time of Day to Exercise | 3 |
| Fish Oils in Heart Cells Can Block Dangerous Heart Rhythms | 4 |
| Lyme Disease in Michigan and Indiana | 4 |
| Obesity Epidemic Set to Get Worse | 4 |
| Sporidicin Disinfectant Kills Mold More Effectively Than Bleach | 4 |
| Stanford Researchers Identify Best Hours for Shut-eye When Sleep Must be Limited | 5 |
| Worriers More Prone to Cancer | 5 |
| Yeast, Wormwood & Bacterial Genes Combine in Microbial Factory to Make Antimalarial Drug | 5 |
| USEUCOM | 5 |
| Belarus: Meningitis Outbreak | 5 |
| Belgium Finds Nerve Gas Ingredient in Letters | 6 |
| Cholera in Africa | 6 |
| Holiday Sex Spreads Drug-Resistant Gonorrhea in UK | 6 |
| South Africa: Influenza A Virus Outbreak in Adult Residential College | 7 |
| Spain: Legionellosis Outbreak in the Canary Islands | 7 |
| Tanzania: Unexplained Deaths | 7 |
| USCENTCOM | 7 |
| Iraq: Ominous Increase in Cholera Cases in Basra | 7 |
| Iraq: Villagers Fall Ill Amid Fears of Nuclear Contamination | 8 |
| Outbreak of Visceral Leishmaniasis in Iraq | 8 |
| USNORTHCOM | 8 |
| Al-Qaida Threat to U.S. Water Supply | 8 |
| CDC: 'Part-time Smokers' on the Rise | 8 |
| Checkups For All, After Iraq | 9 |
| Fat vs. Fat on the Food Pyramid | 9 |
| Florida: Eastern Equine Encephalitis in horses | 9 |
| GAO Triples Estimates of Gulf War Fallout | 9 |
| Hantavirus Infection in Montana and Kansas | 9 |
| More Smallpox Vaccine Concerns | 10 |
| New Respiratory Virus Found in U.S. Kids | 10 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Pentagon Report Outlines Chemical, Biological Defense Needs | 10 |
| Sensors May Track Terror's Fallout..... | 10 |
| USGS West Nile Virus Surveillance Update, as of Wed 28 May 2003 | 11 |
| Washington State: First Suspected Human Case of West Nile Virus | 11 |

USPACOM..... 11

| | |
|---|----|
| Dengue Update for PACOM Countries | 11 |
| Flu-like Illness Kills 19 in Western Nepal..... | 11 |
| Scorching Heatwave Kills 1,000 in India..... | 12 |
| Sri Lanka: Undiagnosed Febrile Illness | 12 |
| Vietnam: Japanese Encephalitis Outbreak | 12 |

USSOUTHCOM..... 12

| | |
|---|----|
| Brazil: Hantavirus Infection in 3 States | 12 |
| Cumulative Dengue Statistics for the Americas | 13 |
| Brazil: Dengue Reports from 3 States..... | 13 |

HOT TOPICS

Antiviral Gloves Instantly Clean Wounds

29 May – New Scientist reported needlestick or scalpel injuries put healthcare workers at risk of life-threatening infections such as [hepatitis C](#) and [HIV](#). But a simple pair of gloves that automatically disinfects the wounds could boost the chances of avoiding infection. Plain latex surgical gloves do not protect people from viruses once they have been punctured or split. But lab tests on the sandwich-like material used for the new glove indicate that it promises to cut the number of virus particles entering a wound by a factor of 15. It reduced infection rates in tests on animals by up to 60 per cent. The added protection is provided by a layer of viricidal liquid droplets sandwiched between two layers of synthetic rubber. Full clinical trials are expected to start late this year. [View Article](#)

Cumulative Number of Reported Probable Cases Of SARS From: 1 Nov 2002¹ To: 4 June 2003

| Country | Cumulative # of case(s)² | # of deaths | Date last case reported | Date # of cases is current |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Australia | 5 | 0 | 12/May/2003 | 04/Jun/2003 |
| Brazil | 2 | 0 | 10/Apr/2003 | 24/Apr/2003 |
| Canada | 216 | 31 | 03/Jun/2003 | 03/Jun/2003 |
| China | 5329 | 334 | 03/Jun/2003 | 04/Jun/2003 |
| China, Hong Kong ⁴ | 1748 | 283 | 04/Jun/2003 | 04/Jun/2003 |
| China, Macao | 1 | 0 | 21/May/2003 | 03/Jun/2003 |
| China, Taiwan | 678 | 81 | 04/Jun/2003 | 04/Jun/2003 |
| Colombia | 1 | 0 | 05/May/2003 | 05/May/2003 |
| Finland | 1 | 0 | 07/May/2003 | 20/May/2003 |
| France | 7 | 0 | 09/May/2003 | 22/May/2003 |
| Germany | 10 | 0 | 04/Jun/2003 | 04/Jun/2003 |
| India | 3 | 0 | 13/May/2003 | 14/May/2003 |
| Indonesia | 2 | 0 | 23/Apr/2003 | 04/Jun/2003 |
| Italy | 9 | 0 | 29/Apr/2003 | 03/Jun/2003 |
| Kuwait | 1 | 0 | 09/Apr/2003 | 20/Apr/2003 |
| Malaysia | 5 | 2 | 20/May/2003 | 04/Jun/2003 |
| Mongolia | 9 | 0 | 06/May/2003 | 02/Jun/2003 |
| New Zealand | 1 | 0 | 30/Apr/2003 | 04/Jun/2003 |
| Philippines | 12 | 2 | 15/May/2003 | 04/Jun/2003 |
| Republic of Ireland | 1 | 0 | 21/Mar/2003 | 23/May/2003 |
| Republic of Korea | 3 | 0 | 14/May/2003 | 04/Jun/2003 |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| Romania | 1 | 0 | 27/Mar/2003 | 22/Apr/2003 |
| Russian Federation | 1 | 0 | 31/May/2003 | 31/May/2003 |
| Singapore | 206 | 31 | 18/May/2003 | 31/May/2003 |
| South Africa | 1 | 1 | 09/Apr/2003 | 03/May/2003 |
| Spain | 1 | 0 | 02/Apr/2003 | 07/May/2003 |
| Sweden | 3 | 0 | 18/Apr/2003 | 13/May/2003 |
| Switzerland | 1 | 0 | 17/Mar/2003 | 16/May/2003 |
| Thailand | 8 | 2 | 13/May/2003 | 3/Jun/2003 |
| United Kingdom | 4 | 0 | 29/Apr/2003 | 4/Jun/2003 |
| United States | 69 | 0 | 03/Jun/2003 | 3/Jun/2003 |
| Viet Nam | 63 | 5 | 14/Apr/2003 | 14/May/2003 |
| Total | 8402 | 772 | | |

Notes:

Cumulative number of cases includes number of deaths.

As [SARS](#) is a diagnosis of exclusion, the status of a reported case may change over time. This means that previously reported cases may be discarded after further investigation and follow-up.

1. The start of the period of surveillance has been changed to 1 November 2002 to capture cases of atypical pneumonia in China that are now recognized as being cases of SARS.

2. A decrease in the number of cumulative cases and discrepancies in the difference between cumulative number of cases of the last and the current WHO update are attributed to the discarding of cases.

3. Includes cases who are "discharged" or "recovered" as reported by the national public health authorities.

4. One death attributed to Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China occurred in a case medically transferred from Viet Nam. [View Report](#)

Discovery that Deadly Listeriosis Often Occurs in Clusters Can Help Find Sources and Save Lives

28 May – Eurekalert.com reported cases of [listeriosis](#), the food-borne bacterial disease that kills one of every five of its victims, are not as isolated as once believed. Using DNA evidence to track bacterial strains, a Cornell University food scientist and his collaborators have concluded that nearly one-third of the 2,500 U.S. cases annually might occur in geographic clusters at generally the same time. Martin Wiedmann, Cornell assistant professor of food science, describes examining bacterial samples from listeriosis victims from the New York State Department of Health obtained between 1996 and 2000. By matching strains of the bacterium using DNA fingerprint methods, Wiedmann and his colleagues were able to show connections between cases of listeriosis in the state. Previously it was believed that the vast majority of these cases occurred in isolation. [View Article](#)

Eat Your Whey: It May Protect Against Prostate Cancer

27 May – Ohio State University reported new research suggests that whey, a liquid byproduct from cheese production, may play a role in helping prevent [prostate cancer](#). When Ohio State University food scientists treated human prostate cells in the lab with whey protein, cellular levels of the antioxidant [glutathione](#) increased. Antioxidants such as glutathione have been shown to control cancer-causing free radicals. Cancer researchers suspect that the accumulation of free radicals plays a role in the development of prostate cancer. In the current study, the Ohio State scientists found that treating prostate cells with whey protein elevated glutathione levels in the cells by up to 64 percent [View Article](#)

Experts Disagree on Ideal Time of Day to Exercise

27 May – CNN News reported whether trekking on a treadmill or slicing through a pool, for many people, exercising in the morning is like drinking a cup of coffee. The early physical activity stimulates them and gives the day a strong start. But one neurologist is challenging the old convention of the morning workout. Dr. Phyllis Zee of Northwestern University has a different opinion about when is the ideal time to exercise. "The best time to work out is in the late afternoon," Zee said. "The reason for that is your muscle strength is at its peak, its highest. You're going to be less

likely to injure yourself. It's also a time when people are most awake and alert." The science behind Zee's assertion resides with circadian rhythms. According to Zee, [circadian rhythms](#) explain why working out later in the day might be more productive and beneficial. "One of the things that circadian rhythms does is that it determines when your best performance time is," Zee said. "Your ability to perform changes throughout 24 hours." [View Article](#)

Fish Oils in Heart Cells Can Block Dangerous Heart Rhythms

27 May – Science Blog reported eating oily fish like salmon, tuna or bluefish at least twice a week can prevent sudden cardiac death because [fatty acids](#) in the fish block dangerous irregular heart rhythms. Epidemiologists have known for years that eating fish was associated with reduced risk of [cardiovascular disease](#), but only recently have researchers had laboratory evidence to explain this effect, says review author Alexander Leaf, M.D. Leaf and colleagues present a detailed explanation of how omega-3 (n-3) fish oils benefit the heart. "Animal experiments show that fatty acids from n-3 fish oils are stored in the cell membranes of heart cells and can prevent sudden cardiac death or fatal arrhythmias," Leaf says. Leaf says that studies of individual heart cells demonstrated that the omega-3 essential polyunsaturated fatty acids (n-3 PUFAs) specifically block excessive sodium and calcium currents in the heart. Those excessive electrical discharges cause dangerous and erratic changes in heart rhythm. [View Article](#)

Lyme Disease in Michigan and Indiana

03 June – ProMed reported [Lyme disease](#) has arrived for the summer in Michigan's Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties, district health officials said. The only area in Michigan where Lyme disease had been found was in southern Menominee County in the Upper Peninsula near Wisconsin. But testing by Michigan State University through tick and rodent surveys has discovered the disease in the 3 counties along with Allegan County. It has also been found in northwest Indiana. The carrier in southwestern Michigan is the blacklegged tick, also known as [the deer tick](#). Of 52 sites checked in a 5-county area, including in St. Joseph and Allegan counties, 10 have shown signs of infection in the ticks. The sites where the disease-carrying ticks have been primarily found are along Lake Michigan, although 2 locations inland have also tested positive. [View Report](#)

Obesity Epidemic Set to Get Worse

29 May – Reuters reported [obesity](#) has spiraled into a worldwide epidemic affecting 250 million adults but a leading nutritional expert believes the worst is still to come. Overweight adolescents are on course to fuel an even bigger global health problem as they mature into obese adults, he says. "The younger generation, the generation after us, will be even more obese than we are, which doesn't make the future look very promising," Dr Mikael Fogelholm said in an interview. The chairman of the 12th European Congress on Obesity said the prevalence of obesity among adolescents has increased more rapidly than among the middle-aged population. [View Article](#)

Sporicidin Disinfectant Kills Mold More Effectively Than Bleach

28 May – Eurekalert.com reported a 1-year study from the University of Maryland comparing [Sporicidin®](#) Disinfectant Solution and household bleach finds that Sporicidin is more effective than household bleach in controlling [mold fungi](#) (Stachybotrys and Chaetomium) on commonly used building materials (drywall). Sporicidin allowed no growth and provided continuous fungistatic activity for 4 months after application on treated drywall. Household bleach was not effective within one day when it dried. The researchers stated, "because of the recent implications of toxin producing fungi with 'Sick-Building-Syndrome', ways of treating contaminated indoor environments, as well as preventing the contamination of indoor environments, has become a major concern. Treating drywall

with a fungistatic compound such as Sporicidin before installation of the drywall may be a more effective means of reducing the hazards of indoor microbial contamination than eradication of mold growth after the homes/buildings have been occupied." [View Article](#)

Stanford Researchers Identify Best Hours for Shut-eye When Sleep Must be Limited

29 May – Eurekalert reported people getting a minimal amount of sleep do better if they go to bed early in the morning rather than late at night, suggests Stanford University Medical Center research. A recently published pilot study on the effects of sleep deprivation also found that individual tolerance of sleep restriction varies widely, yet study participants had a better overall adaptation to early morning sleep. In the study, researchers found that participants in an early morning sleep group had better rates of sleep efficiency (the percentage of time spent sleeping in the four-hour window) and sleep latency (the amount of time spent falling asleep) than night sleep groups. The author stated such studies could have particular importance to members of the military or other professions where sleep restriction is common. [View Article](#)

Worriers More Prone to Cancer

28 May – New Scientist reported a study involving over 60,000 people suggests that people prone to anxiety are more likely to get [cancer](#). The findings will add to the controversy over whether purely psychological factors such as stress, [anxiety](#) and [depression](#) can trigger cancer. Part of the problem with this kind of study is that it is hard to exclude with certainty the influence of behavioral factors, such as lack of self-care, poor diet and smoking. A team of psychiatrists led by Arnstein Mykletun at the University of Bergen in Norway followed up 62,591 people who took part in a massive medical survey of people living in one county in Norway during 1995 to 1997. The Norway National Cancer Registry was used to identify participants in the survey who had developed cancers or premalignancies - abnormal cells that can turn cancerous. Those who scored high on an anxiety test in 1995 were about 25 per cent more likely to have premalignancies, the team told a meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in San Francisco last week. [View Article](#)

Yeast, Wormwood & Bacterial Genes Combine in Microbial Factory to Make Antimalarial Drug

01 June – Eurekalert.com reported by combining genes from three separate organisms into a single bacterial factory, University of California, Berkeley, chemical engineers have developed a simpler, less expensive way to make an antimalaria "miracle" drug that is urgently needed in Third World countries. The drug, artemisinin, is one of the most promising next-generation [anti-malarials](#) because of its effectiveness against strains of the [malaria](#) parasite now resistant to front-line drugs. It is now too expensive for broad use in countries such as Africa where it is most needed. [View Article](#)

USEUCOM

Belarus: Meningitis Outbreak

30 May – The Moscow Times reported officials in Grodno, Belarus, have ordered students in some 30 elementary schools to stay home after an outbreak of [viral meningitis](#). At least 177 cases of the

illness have been registered recently in Grodno, near the borders of Poland and Lithuania. No fatalities have been officially recorded. Health officials are searching for the source of the outbreak. Initially it was believed to be connected to contaminated water, but officials now are looking at whether the virus is being transmitted in the air. [View Article](#)

Belgium Finds Nerve Gas Ingredient in Letters

04 June – ProMed reported letters containing a nerve gas ingredient were sent to the Belgian prime minister's office, the U.S. and British embassies and a court trying al Qaeda suspects in Brussels. Two postal workers were taken to hospital after being exposed to the chemicals in the letters at mail depots. No one else was injured by the 10 letters sent to a variety of targets, also including the Saudi Arabian embassy, three ministries, an airport and a port authority. The brownish-yellow powder contained phenarsazine chloride, an arsenic derivative used in nerve gas, as well as hydrazine, an agent used as a rocket propellant, the Health Ministry said. Both substances are also found in pesticides. Police suspect the letters came from a single source in Belgium, said a spokeswoman for the federal prosecutor's office, overseeing the investigation. Pellens said some of them contained a written note reading "International Islamic Society" and "Bastards" in English. [View Article](#)

Cholera in Africa

31 May – ProMed reported on a number of [cholera](#) outbreaks in Africa. There is a cholera outbreak in the Mpumalanga region of South Africa. The outbreak has included 27 areas bordering Swaziland and Mozambique, with Tonga being the most affected area. WHO has received reports of 3 cholera outbreaks in Mozambique. The affected provinces include Gaza Province, the Maputo Province with Sabie being the most affected district, and the Sofala Province. There have been over 7,000 cases and close to 70 deaths in Mozambique alone. The Ugandan Ministry of Public Health has reported on hundreds of cholera cases, some resulting in death, in the Bundibugyo district, with most cases located along the Semliki and Lamia rivers. Cholera cases were also reported in the districts of Kasese, Hoima, Arua, Kabarole, Moyo, Nebbi, Kisoro and Nakapiripirit. Uganda is also experiencing an outbreak of dysentery. As of 6 May 2003, 68 cases including 3 deaths of cholera have been reported in Nchelenge district of Zambia. Finally, an outbreak of cholera has been confirmed in the Somali capital, Mogadishu. [View Report](#)

Holiday Sex Spreads Drug-Resistant Gonorrhea in UK

30 May – Reuters reported drug-resistant strains of the sexually transmitted disease [gonorrhea](#) are increasing across the UK, fueled partly by people who become infected while on vacation, researchers said. The proportion of gonorrhea strains that were resistant to the first-line antibiotic ciprofloxacin rose from three percent to almost 10 percent between 2001 and 2002, said Dr. Kevin Fenton from Britain's Health Protection Agency. The researchers tested more than 2,000 samples of gonorrhea bacteria each year in 2000, 2001 and 2002, collected from 26 clinics in England and Wales. Last year, more than 20 percent of bacteria isolated from people who had sex with a new partner while abroad were drug-resistant, compared with 8.6 percent in the rest of the infected population. Levels of [ciprofloxacin resistance](#) are particularly high in parts of the Far East, although a significant proportion of people in the study had traveled in Western Europe, he said. His group recommends a review of national treatment guidelines and the use of antibiotics such as cephalosporins or spectinomycin, so that infections are treated quickly and effectively. [View Article](#)

South Africa: Influenza A Virus Outbreak in Adult Residential College

03 June – ProMed reported of the approximately 2000 students at the college, approximately 600 have developed an [influenza](#)-like syndrome with fever, myalgia, and lethargy. Twenty-five cases have required hospitalization either with pneumonia or severe myalgia. One case of influenza A virus pneumonia has been diagnosed according to the treating ID specialist. The same specialist revealed that CK [creatin kinase] levels were "unusually high" in many victims. Influenza A virus was identified by rapid testing. Strain identification is awaited. The outbreak commenced on 28 May 2003. Victims were not immunized prior to the outbreak. College students who have not fallen ill are being administered amantadine and vaccination. [View Report](#)

Spain: Legionellosis Outbreak in the Canary Islands

30 May – ProMed reported on an outbreak of [legionellosis](#) in the locality of Adeje, in the south of the island of Tenerife. It has affected at least 4 persons but is reported to be under control. Health authorities believe that the outbreak originated in a spa that offers water-based treatments. The site is now closed and will not reopen until all possibilities of contagion have been completely eradicated. Sources at the health department said that the 4 cases identified so far are causally and temporally related to the site, and added that, given the incubation period for the disease, it is possible that new cases will appear until 28 May 2003. The source of the outbreak is the water refrigeration system. [View Report](#)

Tanzania: Unexplained Deaths

28 May – ProMed reported officials from Tanzania's Ministries of Health and Water and Livestock Development will soon meet with authorities from the Ukerewe district and Mwanza region to try to identify the cause of a mysterious disease that has killed 55 youths on Ukerewe Island, Lake Victoria. The Chief Medical Officer would not give the data of the death toll, but admitted that the situation was "serious," with some 582 people already infected by the viral disease that seems to affect mainly male youths in the interior of the island. The cause of the disease has yet to be established, as 2 government ministries differ in their findings. The Ministry of Health believes the cause of the disease is a large amount of chemicals including chromium, cadmium, aluminum, and mercury present in the water used by the residents. However, a few days later, the Ministry of Water and Livestock Development issued a contradicting statement, saying that a scientific analysis carried out by its experts showed that the water in the affected villages was fit for human consumption. [View Report](#)

USCENTCOM

Iraq: Ominous Increase in Cholera Cases in Basra

29 May – Reuters reported the number of confirmed cases of [cholera](#) in the Iraqi city of Basra is already higher than in the whole of last year, and many more cases are probably undetected, the United Nations said. World Health Organization (WHO) spokeswoman Fadela Chaib told a news conference that 64 cases of the potentially fatal water-borne disease had been confirmed in Basra and the surrounding region, compared to 39 in the whole of 2002. The actual number of cases this year is likely to be far higher, as the surveillance system that monitored the spread of the disease collapsed during the war and the weeks of chaos and looting that followed. So far this year no deaths from cholera have been reported in southern Iraq, but with the health care system still in crisis the outbreak could well cause loss of life unless it is brought under control. The WHO says the

outbreak of cholera could come from several sources. Illegal tapping has contaminated the water supply in the Basra area, and many people outside the city center rely on untreated river water. The WHO estimates that only a third of the population can afford bottled drinking water. [View Article](#)

Iraq: Villagers Fall Ill Amid Fears of Nuclear Contamination

30 May – The Sydney Morning Herald reported residents in the Iraqi village of Riyadh are showing signs of [radiation sickness](#). Dr Jaafar Nasser Suhayb, who runs a nearby clinic, said that over five days he had treated about 20 patients with similar symptoms - shortness of breath, nausea, severe nosebleeds and itchy rashes. He said several of the symptoms were consistent with acute radiation syndrome. "All of the patients live near the nuclear site," he said. The International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN's nuclear watchdog, will send a team of inspectors to Iraq next week to establish how much [uranium](#) and other [radioactive materials](#) may be missing from the site. The Tuwaitha center, a complex of more than 100 buildings, is just south of the River Tigris, about 25 kilometers from central Baghdad. Built in the 1960s for Iraq's Atomic Energy Commission, it allegedly housed Saddam Hussein's secret effort to build a nuclear bomb. A platoon of 40 American troops is now guarding the research center. [View Article](#)

Outbreak of Visceral Leishmaniasis in Iraq

31 May – ProMed reported on an outbreak of [visceral leishmaniasis](#) in Iraq. Though there have been outbreaks of the disease in Iraq in the past around this time of year, it is particularly severe this time. There are now more than 200 cases. [View Report](#)

USNORTHCOM

Al-Qaida Threat to U.S. Water Supply

28 May – The World Tribune reported a spokesman for al-Qaida has told an Arabic-language news magazine that the terror group is planning to try and use poisons to attack the United States, specifically threatening to contaminate the nation's water supply. Abu Mohammed al-Ablaj told al-Majallah magazine that "al Qaida (does not rule out) using [sarin](#) gas and poisoning drinking water in U.S. and Western cities." "We will talk about (these weapons) then and the infidels will know what harms them. They spared no effort in their war on us in Afghanistan. They should not therefore rule out the possibility that we will present them with our capabilities." Some U.S. officials play down the threat, but others point out that al-Ablaj had communicated with the magazine prior to the suicide attacks earlier this month in Saudi Arabia, warning that al-Qaida was about to stage a major offensive in the kingdom. [View Article](#)

CDC: 'Part-time Smokers' on the Rise

28 May – CNN News reported part-time smokers are a fast-growing segment of the 23 percent of American adults who smoke, a troubling trend to anti-tobacco activists. A generation ago, people generally were either daily smokers or nonsmokers. Researchers lately are finding a new group of smokers -- occasional smokers who don't light up every day. They say the likely reasons for the emergence of this smoking subgroup are more expensive cigarettes, tough smoking bans and a growing social stigma against smoking. But scientists still don't know very much about who the part-time smokers are and how to get them to quit for good. [View Article](#)

Checkups For All, After Iraq

03 June – CBS News reported hoping to avoid the delays and denials [sick soldiers faced after the first Gulf War](#), the Pentagon has ordered [health screenings](#) for every soldier, sailor, Marine and airman sent into the Iraq war. Within 30 days of their homecoming, every one will fill out a [health questionnaire](#), review it with a health provider and give a blood sample - a sweeping effort to defend against potential health problems among the estimated 250,000 troops sent to the Persian Gulf region during the war. [View Article](#)

Fat vs. Fat on the Food Pyramid

28 May — MSNBC News reported there may be a new food pyramid coming that will suggest people eat more fish and other foods with healthy fats but cut back on foods such as potato chips that have harmful trans fats. The White House Office of Management and Budget wrote the Agriculture and Health and Human Services departments Wednesday urging them to revise current guidelines to distinguish between harmful trans fats that increase the risk of [heart disease](#) and beneficial fats such as omega-3 that can lower the risk. The current dietary guidelines target only the reduction of saturated fat and cholesterol, with only a brief reference to the risks from trans fatty acids and benefits of omega-3 fatty acids. The recommendation comes just as officials at HHS and the Agriculture Department prepare to start writing new food nutrition guidelines to be issued in 2005. [View Article](#)

Florida: Eastern Equine Encephalitis in horses

02 June – ProMed reported the number of [Eastern equine encephalitis \(EEE\)](#) cases in Florida has risen to 68 for 2003, further substantiating an earlier suspicion that 2003 will be a tough year for fighting the disease. Florida's case count for all of 2002 was 25 horses. Vaccination histories are unknown for at least 28 of the 68 cases, and at least 29 had not been vaccinated for EEE within the past 6 months. 15 of the 68 horses were recovering when the cases were logged; the other 53 horses died or were euthanized. [View Report](#)

GAO Triples Estimates of Gulf War Fallout

03 June – The Washington Post reported congressional researchers recommended that Congress ask the Pentagon to triple the number of U.S. troops presumed to be exposed to chemical fallout from the demolition of an Iraqi weapons depot in March 1991 to 350,000, or roughly half of U.S. forces that served in the Persian Gulf War. The recommendation by the General Accounting Office, Congress's audit arm, came after analysts concluded that the Defense Department's narrower estimates were based on flawed science. The analysts said the military arbitrarily underestimated the height of plumes produced by demolition of a [sarin](#) gas stockpile at Khamisiyah, lacked accurate data about the weather and relied on simulations in a Utah desert that did not correlate to conditions in Iraq. [View Article](#) [View GAO Report](#)

Hantavirus Infection in Montana and Kansas

02 June – ProMed reported a Toole County, Montana man was diagnosed late Thu 27 May 2003 with [hantavirus](#) infection, but he had already been discharged from hospital and is recovering. Health officials said the man had a history of exposure to rodents in the Shelby and Cut Bank areas. This hantavirus case is Montana's fourth in the past month and the first ever in Toole County, health officials said. It is the 21st case of the disease in Montana since it first appeared in the state in 1993. [View Report](#) A man formerly of Liberal, Kansas has died and his wife is recovering from a bout with

hantavirus. The situation involves a couple that had been working in an area where there was a lot of dust and a rodent infestation -- both outside and indoors. There have been 18 confirmed cases of hantavirus reported in Kansas since the virus was first discovered in the U.S. in 1993. 6 of the Kansas cases have resulted in death. [View Report](#)

More Smallpox Vaccine Concerns

27 May – CBS News reported there is new concern about the government's already troubled [smallpox](#) vaccination program. Few of the half-million healthcare workers eligible for inoculation under phase one of the program chose to get vaccinated. And some health experts are warning -- not so fast. A new report issued by an Institute of Medicine panel says all civilian vaccinations should temporarily stop, and that the federal government should actively get out the word to states. The Committee on Smallpox Vaccine Implementation earlier recommended a "pause" in civilian smallpox vaccination, in part due to unexpected adverse events emerging in what was already known to be the most toxic vaccine on the market. The head of the committee, Dr. Brian Strom, says the Centers for Disease Control, which advises states on their vaccine programs, recently accepted the idea of a pause. Yet, Strom says, the CDC didn't explicitly notify states of this change of heart. [View Article](#)

New Respiratory Virus Found in U.S. Kids

02 June – Reuters reported the human metapneumovirus (hMPV) has now been discovered in American children. Researchers at the Yale University School of Medicine found that 19 out of 296 New Haven, Connecticut, children who had respiratory infections of unknown cause were infected with hMPV. Symptoms included wheezing, cough and fever. In children, 15 to 34 percent of cases of pneumonia and a lung infection called bronchiolitis have no known cause. The most common causes are flu viruses, parainfluenza viruses and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Samples screened in the study were negative for these viruses. Human metapneumovirus came to light in 2001, when researchers in the Netherlands identified the virus in children. More research will be needed to find out how the virus behaves and the extent of its impact. [View Article](#)

Pentagon Report Outlines Chemical, Biological Defense Needs

02 June – Govexec.com reported a range of new vaccines, real-time multiagent detection systems, safer decontamination solutions and less burdensome protective clothing are among the numerous measures sought by the U.S. military to better protect U.S. forces against [chemical and biological warfare threats](#). The various needs—and the solutions planned to address them—were outlined in the annual report of the Defense Department's Chemical and Biological Defense Program provided to Congress in April and released to the public last month. Michael Powers, a senior fellow at the Chemical and Biological Arms Control Institute who recently completed a review of U.S. biological defense activities, said there are two particular weaknesses in U.S. biological defense capabilities in particular, both on the prevention side: detection and vaccine availability. [View Article](#) [View Pentagon Report](#)

Sensors May Track Terror's Fallout

02 June – The Washington Post reported in preparation for a [terrorist attack](#), federal scientists have installed sensors to map wind currents in downtown Washington, Arlington and Silver Spring, the first deployment of a high-tech network to help predict the airborne path of a chemical, biological or radioactive release. A half-dozen aluminum weather towers, each 30 feet tall, have been installed atop government buildings in what officials describe as the most comprehensive wind analysis attempted in any U.S. city. More towers are planned for sensitive sites, including Capitol Hill, the

White House, the Pentagon, the Mall, the National Zoo and the National Arboretum. Government-threat analysts repeatedly have warned of the potential use of unconventional weapons such as a radiological device, or "dirty bomb," against populated areas. But until now, tools precise enough to help officials respond to a local atmospheric release have remained rudimentary, two federal scientific panels concluded. The Washington exercise is seen as a prototype of what could eventually be a nationwide program. [View Article](#)

USGS West Nile Virus Surveillance Update, as of Wed 28 May 2003

22 May – ProMed reported information for the 2003 [West Nile virus](#) (WNV) reporting season has been submitted and verified to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) up to Wed 28 May 2003. The following information is a synopsis of the results of WNV surveillance listed according to state. [Birds](#) - 12 states are conducting surveillance, with 9 states reporting positive test results as follows: Alabama (4), Florida (1), Georgia (4), Kentucky (0), Louisiana (6), Michigan (2), Mississippi (3), New Jersey (1), New York (1), Oregon (0), Pennsylvania (1), Washington (0). [Mosquitoes](#) - 3 states are conducting surveillance, with 2 states reporting cumulative positive results as follows: Georgia (2), New Jersey (1), Pennsylvania (0). [Sentinel Flocks](#) - 2 states are conducting surveillance, both reporting positive test results as follows: Florida (33), North Carolina (1). [Veterinary](#) - 3 states are conducting surveillance, all reporting cumulative positive test results [presumed to be equines] as follows: Alabama (1), Georgia (5), Minnesota (1). [Human](#) - There are no reports of surveillance activity or positive test results from any state. [View Report](#)

Washington State: First Suspected Human Case of West Nile Virus

31 May – ProMed reported a Franklin County man is being evaluated for [suspected West Nile virus \(WNV\)](#) infection, based on the results of preliminary tests. The man became ill in mid-May [2003], was treated as an outpatient and is now recovering. The state Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are running more tests, but if confirmed this would be the first human case of this mosquito-borne disease acquired in Washington state. [View Report](#)

USPACOM

Dengue Update for PACOM Countries

02 June – ProMed reported the Cotabato Regional and Medical Center (CRMC) in the Philippines has recorded 41 additional [dengue hemorrhagic fever](#) cases in late May 2003. Early in May, it recorded 344 cases. Health authorities in South-central Mindanao blamed the rainy season for the increase in the number of [mosquito-related diseases](#). Of the 41 new cases, 21 came from remote and low-lying villages here, and the rest from nearby towns in North Cotabato, Maguindanao, and Lanao del Sur. With the admission of an 11-year-old to a city hospital with dengue fever on Mon 26 May 2003, this disease has resurfaced in Ahmedabad, India after 5 years. The child, a resident of Jamalpur, was diagnosed to be suffering from secondary dengue shock syndrome. AMC rushed a team of medical officials to Jamalpur to take preventive measures and to conduct a survey to determine whether any more persons showed signs of dengue. So far no one has shown signs of having dengue. [View Report](#)

Flu-like Illness Kills 19 in Western Nepal

14 May – Yahoo reported an illness with [flu-like](#) symptoms has killed at least 19 people, mostly children, and affected 400 others in remote western Nepal. Most of the victims were under two years

old and from the village of Ramnakote Khardu in Kalikot district. High fever, headache, cough and cold are the symptoms of the disease and those who died developed respiratory trouble in the last phase. Medical experts have already been sent to the affected villages with necessary medicine, officials said. [View Article](#)

Scorching Heatwave Kills 1,000 in India

02 June – VOA News reported a searing heat wave has killed nearly 1,000 people in India, mostly in the south of the country. The intense heat also is affecting neighboring Bangladesh. The southern Andhra Pradesh state is the worst hit by the scorching Indian summer. Officials say there is no respite from the hot northerly winds that began sweeping the region three weeks ago, and sent temperatures soaring above 45 degrees Celsius. In some coastal districts, the mercury has hit the 50 degree mark. Nearly 900 people have died in the state, due to sunstroke and dehydration. Many of the victims are farm laborers or elderly people. [View Article](#)

Sri Lanka: Undiagnosed Febrile Illness

03 June – ProMed reported the Moratuwa University was closed indefinitely yesterday after over 50 hostellers came down with a sudden viral fever suspected to have been contracted through a group of research students who visited the flood-hit areas during the past few days. The university has taken action to postpone the academic activities for several days as a precautionary measure to prevent a further spread of this mysterious disease. According to university sources, it is suspected that the viral flu was contracted by students who voluntarily visited the flood-affected areas during the past few days to carry out relief distribution and a damage assessment study. Most of the sick hostellers have gone to their hometowns to get medication, while others who are seriously ill have been admitted to nearby hospitals. Meanwhile residents in Moratuwa have expressed fears that the viral fever could spread further through the students remaining in private boarding houses in the area. [View Report](#)

Vietnam: Japanese Encephalitis Outbreak

27 May – GoAsiaPacific.com reported the National Pediatric Hospital last week said seven children, all under the age of five, had died after being admitted for treatment of [Japanese Encephalitis](#). At the time a doctor said a further 115 children from around 10 northern provinces were also being treated with similar symptoms. However, since then the health ministry and hospital staff have refused to comment on the apparent outbreak. The World Health Organization says it has not been officially asked for assistance. [View Report](#)

USSOUTHCOM

Brazil: Hantavirus Infection in 3 States

01 June – ProMed reported on more [Hantavirus](#) infections in Brazil. The Secretary of Health of Minas Gerais confirmed another case of hantavirus infection in the state on Tue 27 May 2003. This brings the number of infected persons to 8. The regions most affected are the Mineiro Triangle and the southwest. Another case of hantavirus infection was confirmed in Santa Catarina. A 22-year-old agricultural worker from the city of Treze Tílias, in the middle-west region of the state, has been hospitalized for 2 weeks in the Intensive Care Unit. Technicians from Health Surveillance have already inspected the property where he lives, and the family and surrounding neighbors have been advised of the need for preventive measures. In Mogi das Cruzes, Sao Paulo, one case of

hantavirus infection was confirmed in a male aged 23 years, who died on Fri 23 May 2003. [View Report](#)

Cumulative Dengue Statistics for the Americas

02 June – ProMed reported Comprehensive tables giving "Number of Reported Cases of [Dengue](#) (DF) and Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF), Region of the Americas (by country and subregion)" are available at the Pan American Health Organization web-site. These tables give incidence (DF & DHF) and serotype, in relation to national boundaries and population size. The provisional figures for the year 2002 can be accessed at the following URL:

<http://www.paho.org/English/HCP/HCT/VBD/dengue-cases-2002.htm>. A similar table for cumulative data for the year 2003 up to 3 Apr 2003 can be accessed at:

<http://www.paho.org/english/HCP/HCT/VBD/dengue-cases-2003.htm> Corresponding Data for earlier years can be accessed through the PAHO web-site:

<http://www.paho.org/english/HCP/HCT/VBD/dengue.htm> [View Report](#)

Brazil: Dengue Reports from 3 States

02 June – ProMed reported In the first 5 months of 2003, 23,674 cases of [dengue](#) were reported in the Ceara State. The disease is present in 153 of the 184 townships in the state. Last week there were 272 cases of DHF -- 20 cases more than in the previous week -- including 153 confirmed with 12 deaths. Another 66 cases and 8 deaths are awaiting lab confirmation. There have been 115 cases confirmed as due to dengue type 3, in 21 townships. An anti-mosquito campaign will be launched in June 2003 in the 51 townships that have had more than 100 cases. As of 21 May 2003 there have been 11,348 cases of dengue in Minas Gerais State during the year. There have been 19 confirmed cases of DHF with 3 deaths: 2 in Divinopolis, in the center west, and one in Igarape, in the metropolitan region of the capital, Belo Horizonte. There was one more suspect death in Betim. As of 26 May 2003, the capital, Sao Paulo, registered 929 cases of dengue, 513 contracted in the municipality. This total is higher than for the same period in 2002. The most affected district of the city was Jabaquara, in the south, with 60 cases; in second place came Vila Leopoldina, in the west, with 52 cases. Cases imported from other states, mainly from Bahia and Pernambuco, numbered 416. [View Report](#)

Please contact the below-listed POC for suggested improvements and/or comments regarding this report. This report is also available on the USACHPPM website at <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/Hioupdate/>.

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